

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

25X1A

DATE DUE

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUBJECT Suspension of Work on Ruegenhafen Project

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The order of the East German Government that all work on the Ruegenhafen project be suspended came as a surprise to all key persons at Bau-Union Nord. When State Secretary Willy Meier, Deputy Minister of the Interior, appeared on Ruegen Island to inform the workers of the decision taken by the government, he was given a warning that workers armed with clubs were waiting for him to arrive. He thereupon left the island in a hurry, ordering that the management of Bau-Union Nord announce the government order.
2. After 17 June 1953, no new building operations were started on the sites and all pertinent funds were cancelled. The only work continued was for winding-up and clearing work. The transfer of workers of Bau-Union Nord to other construction unions in East Germany also began on 17 June. Only 400 workers and 400 employees were still employed on 15 June 1953. They were given dismissal notices for 31 July 1953, when Bau-Union Nord was to be dissolved. The personnel required to settle accounts was granted paid leave after 31 July 1953 to retain them for final wind-up work.
3. Bau-Union Nord suggested that the Ministry of the Interior continue the cementing operations at the two jetty roots of the outer basin, because should work be resumed at a later date, all work carried out previously would have to be re-started. This request by Bau-Union Nord was based on a detailed report prepared by the construction headquarters in cooperation with the local engineers on Ruegen Island, and took into consideration that the Baltic Sea would destroy all previous work on the jetties within the next two years. The construction of the jetties had cost 360,000 eastmarks which, in the opinion of Bau-Union Nord, would be lost if the work were stopped in the present stage of completion.
4. The former operating manager of Bau-Union Nord was relieved in early June 1953 and Selbmann (fnu), previously manager of Bau-Union Sued in Dresden, was appointed his successor. Commercial manager Kaatsch (fnu) who fell ill was succeeded by Bliz (fnu), of Bau-Union Sued in Dresden. Pfeiffer (fnu), who was managing engineer at Bau-Union Nord, fled to West Germany and was replaced first by Antczak (fnu) of Bau-Union in Potsdam, and later by Weghorst (fnu), former managing engineer at building center I. After the government decree on the cancellation of building operations

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and the dissolution of Bau-Union Nord had been issued, it was planned to set up a 10-man managing committee which was to occupy the key positions at Bau-Union Fuerstenberg on the Oder River, Iron Works Combine East and was to include Selbmann as operating manager, Bilz as commercial manager or chief accountant, Dieghorst (sic) as managing engineer, Maecker (fau) as commercial manager or chief accountant and Lovak (fau) as personnel manager. No approval of the appointments scheduled had been received from the Ministry of the Interior by 16 July 1953.

25X1A 1.  Comment. A report on the reshuffling of Bau-Union Nord was previously submitted. 

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